

London. Comp. of
Parish Clerks

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THE C A S E

OF THE

COMPANY of PARISH-CLERKS,

Relating to the Duties on Pamphlets, &c.

Humbly offer'd to the *Honourable House of Commons.*



THE said Company, by their Charter, are obliged to keep a Press in their Hall, for printing the Weekly and Yearly Bills of Mortality, wherein it is appointed that Searchers shall in every Parish, constantly view the Body or Bodies of every Person or Persons that shall happen to die, and report the Nature of the Distemper of every Person to the Clerk of that Parish where the said Person shall so die, and according to such Report, every Parish-Clerk is thereby obliged to bring in his Account Weekly to the said Company's Hall of such Distempers, and also of all Christnings which shall happen, in order that the said Company or their Clerk take an Account Weekly thereof, and send the same to Her Majesty, and to the Lord-Mayor of the City of London, likewise to give an Account of all such Freemen and their Widows as shall happen to die in each Week, that the same may be presented to the Court of Aldermen, in order to take Care of all Orphans. There is also divers other Orders mention'd in the said Charter; as their keeping a Clerk, a Printer and Beadle belonging to the said Company, which is a great Charge to the same.

THAT such Reports are accordingly made by the said Searchers to the said Clerks, and Accounts thereof Weekly sent up to Her Majesty, and to the Lord-Mayor as aforesaid: and likewise an Account thereof dispersed accordingly in each respective Parish within the said Bills of Mortality, the Profits whereof is the Support of the Charge and Expences of the said Company, they having little or no Lands or Estate to defray the same: And if the said Duty be laid upon the said Bills, very few Persons will take in the same; whereby the said Company will be out of any Capacity of conforming to their Charter, or giving Her Majesty or the Lord-Mayor any such Account as aforesaid; and must likewise totally dissolve the said Company, they not having wherewithal to support the Charge of the same.

Wherefore, and for that the said Company have been at a great Charge and Expence in building a Hall, in Pursuance of the said Charter, and have always conformed themselves thereto; and the said Bill being of very great Advantage, not only for the Security of all Orphans, but also a general Satisfaction to all Persons, by showing the Nature of the Diseases, and of the Increase and Decrease of the Burials each Week; which must inevitably be laid aside, if the said Duty is charged on the same. The said Company therefore humbly hope that this Honourable House will take the same into Consideration, and Exempt the Weekly and Yearly Bills of Mortality from the intended Duty mentioned in the said Act, concerning Pamphlets and Papers, &c. Otherwise the said Company (which has been of ancient and long standing) will be utterly Dissolved and Overthrown.

All which is humbly submitted to the Consideration of this Honourable House.

THE

CASE

OF THE

Company of Parish-Clerks &c.



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